

RADAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING CEREMONY



The radar memorial at St Aldhelm's Head was created by Tony Viney, sponsored by Worth Parish Council and assembled with the help of local residents. Sir Bernard Lovell unveiled the memorial on Saturday 27th October 2001 at a dedication ceremony attended by veterans of wartime radar development.





Veiled memorial



Fly past



Rob Clarke & Tony Viney

Speech & Unveiling by Sir Bernard Lovell



THE RADAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING AT WORTH MATRAVERS

On Saturday, 27 October, at long last the great scientists who invented and developed Radar were honoured when a memorial to them was unveiled on St Aldhelm's Head, Worth Matravers, by Sir Bernard Lovell. Not before time! These more or less unsung heroes have had to wait sixty years for this tribute; many, alas, have already died.

Three days before the event, I found myself standing (or trying to) on St. Aldhelm's Head with a howling gale blowing rain and bitter cold across the cliff top and wondering whether I would make the effort to attend the ceremony at all. The contrast on the Saturday was remarkable. The wind had dropped, the sun shone warmly from a clear blue sky, the sea sparkled and so did the imaginative parabolic-like sculpture standing on its Purbeck stone plinth. A band played; a light aircraft swooped low over the crowd several times (official flypasts banned in these troubled times); two intrepid para-gliders showed off to everyone as they came low over the cliff-tops in search of thermals.

Best of all, perhaps, was the appearance in a wheelchair of Reg Batt - the scientist who worked on that very spot with Sir Bernard Lovell in pursuit of centimetric radar sixty years ago! Reg was in a fatal car accident three months before in a coma for a long time; multiple fractures; in fact, his continued existence is nothing short of a miracle. How they got him down that long, deeply potholed track out to the headland I know not, but Tony Viney, the organiser, and designer of the memorial on behalf of Worth Parish Council, was absolutely determined to get him there by hook or by crook.

After the ceremony, the crowd departed for Leeson House and a cup of tea, followed by a talk from Sir Bernard giving a brief history of what the boffins were doing in Worth Matravers and what they achieved. For those who know that rather magic place, you must picture the tweedy pipe-smoking young men snatching a break from their tasks at lunchtime, sitting on the wall outside the Square & Compass, sandwich in one hand, pint in the other, actually watching as from a ringside seat the Battle of Britain taking place in the sky over their heads. Many of these men knew, as they watched, that they were among a small, elite group who were entirely responsible for the fact that the battle was being won.

Tribute long overdue indeed. But at last mission accomplished.

Anne Stobbs, Nov. 2001 (subsequently Anne Latham)

Radar Memorial Plaque

Sir Bernard Lovell
inspects the
memorial plaque
after the unveiling.



**THIS MEMORIAL COMMEMORATES
THE RADAR RESEARCH
CARRIED OUT AT
WORTH MATRAVERS
FROM 1940 - 1942
WHICH WAS CRUCIAL TO
THE WINNING OF THE WAR
AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**



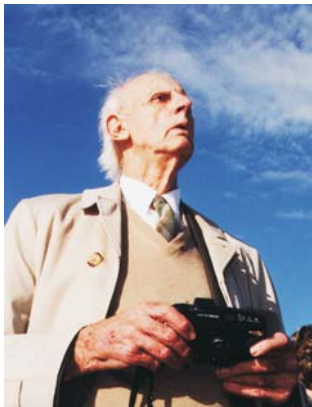
Reg Batt (wheelchair) looks at the
memorial plaque with Sir Bernard
Lovell. Sir Bernard and Reg were
wartime research colleagues
working on centimetric radars very
close to this spot.



Radars Veterans



Wartime radar veterans in front of the memorial



Harry Jurd



Bill Penley



Cooke-Yarborough, Bernard Lovell, Peter Hall